

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following listing of claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A circuit for processing broadcast signals, comprising:
 - first circuitry for receiving a broadcast signal and processing the broadcast signal to extract and output a first audio signal;
 - an attenuator for receiving the first audio signal and attenuating the first audio signal based upon a first control signal to generate a second audio signal;
 - second circuitry for receiving the second audio signal and one of attenuating and amplifying the second audio signal based upon a second control signal to generate a third audio signal; and
 - feedback circuitry for generating the first control signal based upon the second audio signal, the feedback circuitry including
 - third circuitry for receiving the second audio signal and determining a Root Mean Square (RMS) value of the second audio signal and providing an output signal based upon the RMS value, and
 - a comparator for receiving the output signal and comparing the output signal with at least one reference signal to generate the first control signal.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 1, wherein the attenuator, the comparator, and the third circuitry are implemented by analog and/or digital circuitry.
4. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 1, wherein the attenuator, the comparator, and the third circuitry are implemented by hardware digital circuitry.

5. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 3, wherein the digital circuitry is represented by one or more digital signal processing algorithms and/or by one or more software routines.

6. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 5, wherein the digital circuitry is implemented by any combination of hardware digital circuitry, one or more digital signal processing algorithms, and one or more software routines.

7. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 1, wherein the third circuitry is a Root-Mean Square extractor circuitry and the comparator is an integrating comparator.

8. (Original) A circuit according to claim 7, wherein the Root-Mean Square extractor circuitry comprises a series connected rectifier and low pass filter.

9. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 7, wherein the integrating comparator includes a current sourcing/sinking comparator.

10. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 7, wherein the attenuator includes a multiplying digital-to-analog converter.

11. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 1, further comprising an apparatus that receives television signals.

12. (Original) A circuit according to claim 11, wherein said apparatus is a television.

13. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 1, further comprising an apparatus that receives satellite signals.

14. (Original) A circuit according to claim 13, wherein said apparatus is a satellite decoder.

15. (Previously Presented) A circuit according to claim 1, further comprising an apparatus that receives radio signals.

16. (Original) A circuit according to claim 15, wherein said apparatus is a radio.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for processing broadcast signals comprising the steps of:

receiving a broadcast signal and processing the broadcast signal to extract and output a first audio signal;

attenuating the first audio signal to generate a second audio signal based upon a first feedback control signal; and

one of attenuating and amplifying the second audio signal based upon a second control signal to generate a third audio signal;

wherein the step of attenuating the first audio signal includes

determining a Root Mean Square (RMS) value of the second audio signal and providing an output signal that is based upon the RMS value, and

comparing the output signal with at least one reference signal to generate the first feedback control signal.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the method is implemented in an apparatus that receives television signals.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the method is implemented in an apparatus that receives satellite signals.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the method is implemented in an apparatus that receives radio signals.

22-23. (Canceled)